
REMARKS

Claim 18 has been amended based on, e.g., Dye VI-7 on page 126 in the application as filed.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection over Yoshida

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph I, claims 18-20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al (6,284,446).

The Examiner's Position

The Examiner's position is basically that Yoshida et al disclose a method for obtaining an image of an exposed silver halide color photographic material comprising the steps of color developing, blixing and rinsing, wherein the material comprises a support having thereon at least blue-, green- and red-sensitive layers containing yellow, magenta and cyan couplers, respectively, and a non-photosensitive hydrophilic colloid layer, wherein the blue-sensitive layer contains more than 90 mol% of silver chloride, less than 1 mol% of silver iodide and silver halide grains of 0.6 microns or less in their sphere-equivalent diameter and a spectrally sensitizing agent within the claimed general formula VI. Further, the Examiner indicates that Yoshida et al disclose a rinsing step using deionized water having essentially no electric conductivity, which the Examiner considers as being a rinsing solution having a calcium content of 5 mg/l or less absent convincing evidence to the contrary.

Applicants' Response

In response to this rejection, Applicants submit that the exemplified sensitizing dyes of Yoshida '446 are clearly outside the scope of general formula (VI) in the above-amended claim 18, and that Yoshida neither teaches nor suggests the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention is not anticipated by (or obvious over) Yoshida, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection over Yoshida in view of Camp

On page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph II, claims 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al (6,284,446) considered in view of Camp et al (6,296,995), Tanaka et al (5,460,931) and Ogawa (5,496,689).

The Examiner's Position

The Examiner's position is basically that while Yoshida generally teaches the subject matter of claims 21-23, it does not teach the specific requirements of those claims, so the Examiner relies on the secondary references to teach the specific requirements. The Examiner indicates that since the references are all related to rapidly obtaining images after an image exposure, it would have been obvious to use the teachings of the secondary references in Yoshida based on a reasonable expectation of obtaining the advantages disclosed in the secondary references.

Applicants' Response

In response, Applicants submit initially that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the disclosures of Yoshida '446 and Camp et al. (USP No. 6,296,995). Namely, Yoshida '446 uses an analog photographic image forming system as is understood from the use of "mini-lab printer processor PP728" for Examples 1 to 4, whereas Camp '995 uses a digital photographic image forming system as is described in the section "PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION". Since the image forming systems are entirely different between Yoshida '446 and Camp '995, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have expected that the sensitizing agent taught by Camp '995 could simply be applied to Yoshida '446 to achieve a favorable effect.

Further, Applicants submit that there is no motivation to select a dye like the presently disclosed monomethinecyanine dye VI-8 (which is the same as BDS-4 of Camp '995), and it is beyond expectation for those skilled in the art to combine it with a rinsing solution having a calcium content of 5 mg/L or less so as to obtain the remarkable effect achieved by the present invention. Regarding this remarkable effect, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the embodiment combining Sample C-104 and the rinsing solution (2), which are respectively shown in Table 11 on page 239 and Table 12 on page 244 of the present application.

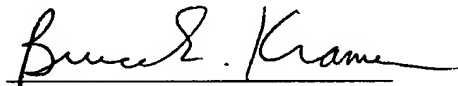
In view of the above, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over Yoshida in view of Camp. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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